



REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1-6, 8 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoyama et al.

In view of the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the structure of the invention, and claim 8 has been amended to independent form. Also, new claims 16 and 17 have been filed.

In Yokoyama et al. cited in the Action, a paper size discriminator of a stacked printing paper includes a pair of members 1, 2 relatively displaced in the width direction of the paper, a detection plate 5 having a groove, a pin 7 sliding in the groove such that the size of loaded paper is ranked in the direction of the width. A rear end keep plate 23 is formed on a slider 25 to be displaced corresponding to the length of paper, wherein the length of the paper is discriminated by first and second detecting switches SW1, SW2 on the cassette in association with projections 26-28 formed on the slider 25. Namely, the projections 26-28 on the slider 25 operate the switches SW1, SW2 to determine the length of the paper. A switch SW3 is formed on the cassette and detects the position of the paper presser foot 33.

In Yokoyama et al., therefore, the paper size is determined by the location of the members 1, 2, and the position of the slider 25 by the projections 26-28 without detecting actual sheet on the cassette. Thus, if a wrong size sheet is placed in the cassette without adjusting the locations of the members 1, 2 and the slider 25, the paper size is not detected correctly.

In claim 1 of the invention, the sheet detection means and the tray position detection means are used. The sheet detection means is mounted on the auxiliary tray, and has detection positions changed by a movement of the auxiliary tray. The sheet detecting means detects presence or absence of the sheet stacked on the

auxiliary tray. The tray position detection means detects a position of the auxiliary tray between the support position and the storage position.

Namely, in claim 1, the sheet detecting means detects presence or absence of the sheet stacked on the auxiliary tray. However, in Yokoyama et al., the position of the slider 25 or rear end keep plate is detected by the switches SW1-SW2, not the presence or absence of the sheet on the tray. Since the SW3 detects the position of the paper presser foot 33, the switch SW3 corresponds to the tray position detection means of claim 1. The switches SW1, SW2 do not detect the presence or absence of the sheet on the cassette, so that the sheet detection means of the invention is not disclosed or suggested in Yokoyama et al.

In claim 1, the sheet detection means is mounted on the auxiliary tray. However, the switches SW1-SW3 are formed on the cassette to detect the position of the slider 25.

In Yokoyama et al., since the position of the slider or rear end keep plate 23 is detected by the switches, if the rear end keep plate 23 is not properly positioned, the paper size is not detected correctly. In claim 1, since the sheet detecting means detects the presence or absence of the sheet, the sheet can be always detected correctly. The actual structure of claim 1 is different from that of Yokoyama et al., and the advantage thereof is superior to that of Yokoyama et al.

In claim 8, the identifying means determines the length of the sheet stacked on the sheet supply tray in the sheet supply direction by detection results of the first sheet detection means and the second sheet detection means when the tray position detection means detects the auxiliary tray at the support position, and by detection result of the first sheet detection means when the tray position detection means detects the auxiliary tray at the storage position.

In Yokoyama et al., the sheet position is always determined by the three switches SW1-SW3. In claim 8, when the auxiliary tray is detected at the storage position, the first sheet detection means detects the sheet length, i.e. the sheet position is detected by the tray position detection means and first sheet detection means. The detection system in claim 8 is not suggested by Yokoyama et al.

In claim 15, it is clarified that the first and second sheet detection means are arranged such that a position of the first sheet detection means when the auxiliary tray is located in the storage position is substantially same as a position of the second sheet detection means when the auxiliary tray is located in the support position. The arrangement of the switches SW1-SW3 of Yokoyama et al. is entirely different from that of the detection means of the invention.

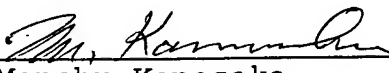
As explained above, claims 1 and 8 are not obvious from Yokoyama et al. Claims pending in the application are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

One month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$120.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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